

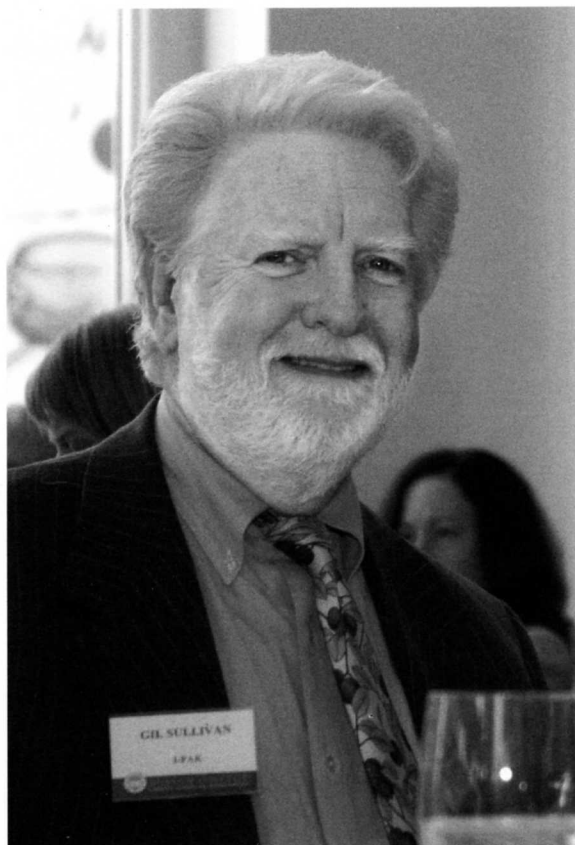
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# IRISH STUDIES

## Irish Studies Program Receives \$1 Million Gift

Gil Sullivan, a 1966 Boston College graduate, says he has never forgotten the people and values that have influenced his life. So when Sullivan made a \$1 million gift to the University's Irish Studies Program this spring, he asked that the endowment be named in honor of two long-serving members of the Boston College community: Senior Vice President James P. McIntyre and the late Rev. Francis C. Mackin, SJ. "It's not so much what you have, but it is what you are willing to give," says Sullivan, who recently sold his I-PAK business, New England's largest distributor of rigid packaging goods, such as plastic bottles and cans. "I feel compelled to give back because I have gotten so much." Sullivan, who is originally from Boston's Dorchester section, is proud of his Irish heritage and has long been a supporter of the University's Irish Studies Program. He and Fr. Mackin, a former BC faculty member and administrator who served as an Alumni Association chaplain before his death in 2005, shared a love of all things Irish and a friendship was easily formed. "I always admired Fr. Mackin for his involvement in Irish studies," Sullivan says. "He was just a very nice man. He never seemed to tire of my questions." In a similar fashion, Sullivan also got to know McIntyre, who has held a number of senior administrative posts in his long Boston College career. "Jim McIntyre is one fine Catholic layman who has devoted his working career to Boston College," Sullivan says. "I am honored and overwhelmed to be named in Gil's generous gift to Boston College," says McIntyre. "He obviously has made the values of Jesuit education a part of his life, and for Fr. Mackin and myself to be recognized for having played a role in helping to form



Gil Sullivan

those values is very, very meaningful."

Says Sullivan, with a laugh, "This all started because I am Irish, and now we have kids at BC from Iowa and Arizona and all sorts of places where they have probably met three Irish people in their lives. "This school was originally founded for Irish immigrant kids. Now we have become the finest Catholic university in the country, but we should remember our roots."

—Reid Oslin

